

Message Text

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46

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIA-15

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5342

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USUN NEW YORK 6660

UNCLAS PARIS 31504

NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO PRESS RELEASE ON AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

REF: A) PARIS 31000, B) PARIS 31123, C) PARIS 31222, D) STATE 237784

,

E) STATE 239376

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY UNESCO ON DECEMBER
6 REFERENCE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL: QUOTE:

1. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT INCOMPLETE OR ERRONEOUS INFORMATION HAS
BEEN PUBLISHED WITH REGARD TO THE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON THE ABOLITION OF TORTURE ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO BE HELD AT
UNESCO HOUS IN PARIS, THE UNESCO SECRETARIAT WISHES TO MAKE THE
FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

2. UNESCO, AN ORGANIZATION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL CHARACTER,
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MADE UP AT PRESENT OF 131 MEMBER STATES, ESTABLISHED RELATIONS

WITH AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IN 1969. UNESCO THEREBY SHOWED THE IMPORTANCE IT ATTACHES TO THE AIMS AND EFFORTS OF THIS NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION WHICH SEEKS, AS UNESCO ITSELF DOES, TO FURTHER UNIVERSAL RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

3. BY A CONTRACT DATED 18 PARIL 1973, UNESCO AGREED TO RENT HALLS TO AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL FOR THE PURPOSE OF HOLDING A CONFERENCE ON THE ABOLITION OF TORTURE SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE ON DECEMBER 10 AND 11, 1973.

4. THE RENTAL OF HALLS AT UNESCO HEADQUARTERS IS A REGULAR PRACTICE WHICH MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR MANY ORGANIZATIONS TO HOLD CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS ON UNESCO PREMISES ON EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, CULTURAL AND COMMUNICATIONS QUESTIONS. FOR ALL RENTALS, A CONTRACT IS SIGNED BETWEEN THE PARTICULAR ORGANIZATION CONCERNED AND UNESCO, WHICH SPECIFIES THAT THE RENTEE AGREES TO RESPECT THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NATURE OF UNESCO AND TO AVOID IMPLICATING THE GOVERNMENTS OF UNESCO MEMBER STATES IN THE DOCUMENTATION PREPARED IN CONNECTION WITH THE MEETINGS AS WELL AS IN THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSIONS.

5. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, HOWEVER, PUBLISHED A REPORT ENTITLED REPORT ON TORTURE WHICH WAS "DESIGNED TO PROVIDE BASIC SOURCE MATERIAL " FOR THE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE ABOLITION OF TORTURE WHICH WAS TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE AT UNESCO.

6. THIS AMNESTY CONFERENCE REPORT, COMMUNICATED TO UNESCO ONLY AT THE END OF NOVEMBER 1973, DIRECTLY IMPLICATED A LARGE NUMBER OF MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION, AND HENCE WENT COUNTER TO THE TERMS OF THE CONTRACT AGREED TO BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. AS A RESULT, UNESCO WAS RELUCTANTLY COMPELLED TO CANCEL THE RENTAL AGREEMENT, AS ITS RIGHT TO DO SO HAD BEEN EXPRESSILY RESERVED BY THE TERMS OF THE CONTRACT.

7. THIS WAS THE ONLY CONSIDERATION THAT MOTIVATED THE UNESC DECISION. UNQUOTE.IRWIN

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